

Town of Mansfield
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting of 19 January 2011
Conference B, Audrey P. Beck Building
MINUTES

Members present: Joan Buck (Alt.), Robert Dahn, Peter Drzewiecki, Neil Facchinetti (Alt.), Quentin Kessel, Scott Lehmann, John Silander. *Members absent:* Frank Trainor. *Others present:* John & Suzanne Listro, Joseph Boucher (Towne Engineering), Grant Meitzler (Wetlands Agent).

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 7:32p by Chair Quentin Kessel.
2. The draft **minutes of the 15 December meeting** were approved as written.
3. **IWA referrals.**

- a. **W1467 (Listro, Candide La)** The planned 12 January IWA field trip to this site was cancelled by snow, and no map was included in the packet for this meeting. Joseph Boucher of Towne Engineering provided maps and outlined the proposal to the Commission on behalf of the applicants.

John & Suzanne Listro propose to split off, from their two lots near the intersection of Candide La and Stearns Rd, a third lot fronting on Candide La. The driveway would snake between wetlands along the east edge of this lot, cross an old bulldozed ditch between the western wetland and another one to the east, and ascend diagonally northwest up a slope (11% grade, fun in winter) to a house site at the rear of the lot. The application calls for an unpaved driveway, crossing the bulldozed ditch on a culvert, with a level spreader on the slope beyond to disperse runoff into the wetland below. Conservation easements (comprising about 44% of total area) are proposed for the wetlands on the three lots. After some discussion, the Commission agreed on the following **motion** (Buck, Facchinetti; all in favor save Dahn and Drzewiecki, who abstained to avoid appearance of a conflict of interest):

In view of the specified level spreader and pervious surface for the driveway, the Commission foresees no significant impact on wetlands, provided the proposed erosion controls are in place during construction. Given the driveway's close proximity to wetlands, the Commission hopes that the homeowner will continue to maintain a porous surface.

Mr. Boucher and the Listros left the meeting.

- b. **W1469 (Town of Mansfield, Statutory Regulation Revision)** A change in state statutes requires revision of language in the Town's wetlands regulations concerning conservation or preservation restrictions. The new language makes clear that if a state agency holds such a restriction, the agency must be notified of any permit application concerning land to which it applies (save in certain limited cases). Since the change is mandated, no action by the Commission appears called for.

4. **Storrs Center project.** Some modifications have been proposed for Phase 1 construction,

but they appear to be in line with the general plan for the Storrs Center development, which the Commission has endorsed (cf. comment to PZC, approved 17 April 2007).

5. Four Corners water supply. A study of water supply options for the 4-Corners area by Environmental Partners Group concludes that the water supply potential of Cedar Swamp is probably too limited to meet the needs of this area. Its 6 Jan draft report recommends additional wells on the Willimantic River near Mansfield Depot or below Eagleville Lake as the best water-supply option.

6. Proposed revisions to subdivision regulations. Changes suggested by the Commission in the draft language regarding preliminary review and shared driveways were largely incorporated into the final proposal. Kessel will communicate the Commission's support of these provisions to the PZC.

7. Commission vacancy. Joan Stevenson has resigned, leaving the Commission with one vacancy. Perhaps one of the Alternates would like to fill it. Drzewiecki will ask Catherine Carlson, a hydrologist at ECSU, if she's interested in joining the Commission as an alternate or member.

8. Adjourned at 8:44p. Next meeting: 7:30p, Wednesday, 16 February.

| Scott Lehmann, Secretary, 22 January 2011; approved as corrected 16 February 2011.

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